Although every effort has been made to keep this list current and updated, it is merely being provided as an additional reference and should not be used as the only means of comparison between the relevant documents. It is recommended that the actual text, figures and tables of the California MUTCD be reviewed in their entirety for a complete and all-inclusive comparison of the changes.

# <u>List of Significant Changes in</u> California MUTCD 2012

(Compares California MUTCD issued on January 13, 2012 to the previous version released on January 21, 2010)

#### **Introduction**

Federal and state legal requirements and references.
Applicability on public roadways, local agencies and private property.
Evolution and history of the manual.
Relationship with other documents, such as National MUTCD, Caltrans Standard Plans,
Standard Specifications and Standard Special Provisions.
Meaning, format, interpretation and applicability of Standard, Guidance, Option, and Support
text headings.
Layout and description of manual parts, chapters, sections, figures and tables.
Font, format, nomenclature for making distinction between National MUTCD and California
added/modified contents.
Compliance of new highway or bikeway construction or reconstruction projects.
Compliance and flexibility allowed on projects in various phases from design through
construction, for existing devices on roadway that have become non-compliant and for
existing inventory of non-compliant devices.
Compliance for devices identified with specific target compliance dates.

### Part 1 - General

- □ Sections 1A.03 thru 1A.06: Responsibility for design, placement, operation, maintenance, and uniformity of traffic control devices.
- □ Section 1A.07: California MUTCD in "substantial conformance" with National MUTCD.
- □ Section 1A.07: Legal requirement providing Caltrans authority to issue California MUTCD after consultation with local agencies and public hearings.
- □ Section 1A.07: California MUTCD applicability to privately owned and maintained roads or commercial establishments.
- □ Section 1A.08: Authority for placement of traffic control devices.
- □ Section 1A.08: Unauthorized and prohibited traffic control devices.
- □ Section 1A.09: Engineering Study and Engineering Judgment.
- □ <u>Section 1A.10:</u> FHWA's requests for interpretations, permission to experiment, interim approvals, or changes.
- □ Section 1A.10: CTCDC requests for experimentation, interpretation, or changes relating to the California edited portion of the California MUTCD.
- □ Section 1A.12: Color code.
- □ Section 1A.13: Definitions of Headings, Words, and Phrases in the Manual.
- □ Section 1A.14: Meanings of Acronyms and Abbreviations in the Manual
- □ Section 1A.15: Abbreviations Used on Traffic Control Devices.

# Part 2 - Signs

<u>2A</u>	- General
	Section 2A.06: Use of pictographs
	Section 2A.11: Use of sign sizes for Minimum and Oversized columns.
	Section 2A.12: Symbol used for a given category of signs not be used for a different category
	of signs.
	Section 2A.13: Word messages – use/non-use of different characters, symbols, fractions,
	upper-case, lower-case and mixed-case letters.
	Section 2A.15: Enhanced Conspicuity for Standard Signs.
•	
	- Regulatory Signs
	Section 2B.03: Size of Regulatory Signs.
	Section 2B.04: Right-of-Way at Intersections.
Ш	Section 2B.05: STOP Sign and ALL WAY Plaque.
	Section 2B.10: STOP Sign or YIELD Sign Placement.
	Section 2B.11: Yield Here To Pedestrians Signs.
	Section 2B.12: In-Street and Overhead Pedestrian Crossing Signs.
	Section 2B.13: Speed Limit changes and AB529 related changes.
	Section 2B.17: Higher Fines Signs and Plaque.
	Section 2B.18: No Left Turn (R3-2) sign, the No U-Turn (R3-4) sign, and the combination
	No U-Turn/No Left Turn (R3-18) sign not be used at roundabouts.
	Section 2B.20: BEGIN RIGHT TURN LANE (R3-20R) sign.
	Section 2B.23: RIGHT (LEFT) LANE MUST EXIT Sign.
	Section 2B.25: BEGIN and END Plaques.
	Section 2B.27: Jughandle Signs.
	Section 2B.30: KEEP RIGHT EXCEPT TO PASS Sign.
	Section 2B.31: TRUCKS USE RIGHT LANE Sign.
	Section 2B.33: STAY IN LANE Sign
	Section 2B.35: Slow Vehicle Turn-Out Signs
	Section 2B.36: DO NOT DRIVE ON SHOULDER Sign and DO NOT PASS ON
	SHOULDER Sign
	Section 2B.40: ONE WAY Signs.
	Section 2B.42: Divided Highway Crossing Signs.
	Section 2B.43 thru 2B.45: Roundabout Directional Arrow Sign and Circular Plaque.
	Section 2B.46: Tow-Away NO STOPPING 4 TO 6 PM (R107(CA)) sign
	Section 2B.46: No Parking of Vehicles for Sale (R108(CA)) signs
	Section 2B.46: PAY AT STATION (R109(CA)) Plaque
	Section 2B.46: NO IDLING COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AND ALL BUSES SR62(CA) or
	NO IDLING All Buses and Commercial Vehicles SR63(CA) symbol sign
	Section 2B.47: Pay Parking and Pay Station signs
	Section 2B.52: Traffic Signal Pedestrian and Bicycle Actuation Signs.
	Section 2B.53: Traffic Signal Signs.
	Section 2B.54: No Turn on Red Signs.
	Section 2B.55: Photo Enforced Signs.

	Section 2B.56: Ramp Metering Signs.
	Section 2B.64: Headlight Use Signs.
	Section 2B.65: MINOR CRASH NO INJURIES –SAFELY MOVE VEHICLES FROM
	TRAVEL LANES sign.
	Section 2B.67 & 2B.68: Barricades and Gates
20	Worning Signs
	Section 2C 04: Minimum size of diamond shaped werning sign on multi-lane roads, when
Ш	<u>Section 2C.04:</u> Minimum size of diamond-shaped warning sign on multi-lane roads, when used on the left-hand side or facing traffic.
	Section 2C.06 thru 2C.15: Horizontal Alignment Warning Signs and Table 2C-5 indicating
Ш	that a horizontal alignment sign is required, recommended, or allowed based on speed
	differentials.
	Section 2C.09: Enhanced use of Chevron Alignment Signs and spacing per new Table 2C-6.
	Prohibited use of chevron signs.
	Section 2C.10: Combination Horizontal Alignment/Advisory Exit and Ramp Speed Signs.
	Section 2C.12: One-Direction Large Arrow Sign not to be used at Roundabouts.
	Section 2C.15: Combination Horizontal Alignment/Advisory Exit and Ramp Speed Signs.
	Section 2C.24: Freeway or Expressway Ends Signs
	Section 2C.31: Shoulder Signs.
	Section 2C.33: Warning Signs and Plaques for Motorcyclists
	Section 2C.34: NO CENTER LINE Sign
	Section 2C.35: Weather Condition Signs
	Section 2C.37: Advance Ramp Control Signal Signs
	Section 2C.38: Reduced Speed Limit Ahead Signs
	Section 2C.39: DRAW BRIDGE Sign
	Section 2C.40: Merge (W4-1) sign and Entering Roadway Merge (W4-5) sign with a NO
	MERGE AREA (W4-5P) supplemental plaque
	Section 2C.43: RIGHT (LEFT) LANE EXIT ONLY AHEAD Sign
	Section 2C.46: ROUNDABOUT (W16-17P) or TRAFFIC CIRCLE (W16-12P)
	Section 2C.49: combined Bicycle/Pedestrian (W11-15) sign TRAIL X-ING (W11-15P)
	supplemental plaque
	Section 2C.52: NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN AHEAD Sign
	Section 2C.58: If two street names are used on the Advance Street Name plaque.
	Section 2C.60: SHARE THE ROAD Plaque.
	Section 2C.62: NEW Plaque.
2D	- Guide Signs on Conventional Roads.
	Section 2D.08: Down arrows on overhead signs on conventional roads. Curved-stem arrows
_	on signs at circular intersections. Type A through D directional arrows on guide signs.
	Section 2D.23: BEGIN Auxiliary Sign.
	Section 2D.27: Lane Designation Auxiliary Signs
	Section 2D.28: Directional Arrow auxiliary sign with a double-headed arrow not be used in
	at a circular intersection.
	Section 2D.33: Combination Lane-Use/Destination Overhead Guide Sign.
П	Section 2D.38: Destination Signs at Circular Intersections.

☐ Entire Chapter is new.

### 2M - Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Signs.

□ Section 2M.07: Use of Prohibitive Circle and Diagonal Slash for Non-Road Applications.

☐ Section 2M.10: Memorial or Dedication Signing.

### 2N – Emergency Management Signing.

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☐ Section 2N.03: Evacuation Route Signs.

#### Part 3 - Markings

Section 3A.05: Purple markings supplementing lane line or edge line markings for toll plaza

3A – General
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	lanes restricted to use by vehicles with registered electronic toll collection accounts.
3B	- Pavement and Curb Markings
	Section 3B.01: Single solid yellow line not to be used as a center line marking on a two-way
	roadway.
	Section 3B.02: Table 3B-1 is for operational use in marking no-passing zones, values are less
	than that suggested for geometric design by the AASHTO Policy on Geometric Design of
	Streets and Highways.
	Section 3B.04: Lane line markings for deceleration or acceleration lanes, through lane that
	becomes a mandatory exit or turn lane, auxiliary lane 2 miles or less in length between an
	entrance ramp and an exit ramp or auxiliary lane 1 mile or less in length between two
	adjacent intersections.
	<u>Section 3B.04:</u> Lane line markings for exit ramps with parallel or tapered deceleration lanes.
	Section 3B.04: Lane line markings for entrance ramps with parallel or tapered deceleration
	lanes.
	Section 3B.04: Lane line markings in advance of lane drops at exit ramps, in advance of
	freeway route splits with dedicated lanes, to separate a through lane that continues beyond an
	interchange from an adjacent auxiliary lane between an entrance ramp and an exit ramp, as a
	lane drop marking in advance of lane drops at intersections or to separate a through lane that
	continues beyond an intersection from an adjacent auxiliary lane between two intersections.
	Section 3B.05: Channelizing lines for all exit ramps and entrance ramps with parallel or
	tapered acceleration lanes.
	Section 3B.09: Lane-reduction transition markings can be omitted on low-speed urban
	roadways where curbs define the roadway edge.
	Section 3B.11: Retroreflective or internally illuminated (steadily illuminated) raised pavement markers can be used to mark curbed approach ends of raised medians and curbs of
	payement markers can be used to mark curbed approach chus of faised medians and curbs of

- $\ \ \, \Box \ \ \, \underline{\text{Section 3B.13:}}$  Raised pavement markers should not supplement right-hand edge lines.
- □ Section 3B.13: To improve visibility of horizontal curves, center lines can be supplemented with retroreflective or internally illuminated raised pavement markers.
- ☐ Section 3B.16: Use and prohibition of stop and yield line markings.
- ☐ Section 3B.17: Do Not Block Intersection Markings.
- □ Section 3B.18: Use of engineering study before installing a marked crosswalk.
- □ <u>Section 3B.18:</u> Detectable warning surfaces to mark boundaries between pedestrian and vehicular ways.
- ☐ Section 3B.20: Lane-use arrow and ONLY markings.
- ☐ Section 3B.22: Speed Reduction Markings.
- ☐ Section 3B.24: Chevron and Diagonal Crosshatch Markings.

#### 3C - Roundabout Markings.

☐ Entire Chapter is new.

islands.

3D – Markings	for	Preferent	tial	Lanes.
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☐ Entire Chapter is new. Former HOV sections have been extensively re-written.

#### 3E - Markings for Toll Plazas.

☐ Entire Chapter is new.

#### 3F - Delineators.

□ Section 3F.03: Use of delineators on guardrail or other longitudinal barriers.

### **3G - Colored Pavements.**

□ Section 3G.01: When colored pavement is or is not a traffic control device.

#### 3I – Islands.

☐ Section 3I.01: Pedestrian Islands and Medians.

## 3J - Rumble Strip Markings.

☐ Entire Chapter is new.

### Part 4 – Highway Traffic Signals

4B	- Traffic Control Signals - General
	Section 4B.02: Criteria for removal of a signal - Changed from option to guidance.
<u>4C</u>	2 – Traffic Control Signal Needs Studies
	<u>Section 4C.04:</u> Warrant 3 – New guidance in Warrant 3 – Should be traffic actuated.
	Section 4C.05: Warrant 4 – Only one criteria needs to be met
	Section 4C.10: Warrant 9 – New Warrant - Intersection Near a Grade Crossing.
	Figure 4C.101: Warrant 9 Worksheet (Sheet 5 of 5)
<b>4</b> D	– Traffic Control Signal Features
	Sections in 4D: Reorganization of sections in chapter 4D.
	Sections in 4D: Optional use of flashing yellow arrow for permissive turns.
	Section 4D.03: Use of signs to prohibit pedestrian crossing
	Section 4D.04: Revised definition of the intersection
	Section 4D.06: Prohibition of flashing green, vehicular countdown display, strobes, etc.
	Section 4D.06: Optional use of U-turn signal.
	Section 4D.07: 12-inch indication required for all new traffic control signal faces.
	Section 4D.08 & 4D.09: Optional red indication cluster.
	Section 4D.11: Minimum two signal faces for straight- through movements.
	Section 4D.11: Use of single section green arrow signal face.
	Section 4D.11: Recommended number, location, and design of signal faces where approach
	speed is $>= 45$ mph.
	Section 4D.12: Optional yellow retro-reflective borders around backplates.
	Section 4D.13: Location of green signal indications for permissive left turns.
	Section 4D.17 and 4D.21: Protected only mode shall not be used without exclusive turn lane.
	Section 4D.19: Use of red arrow for protected left turn phase.
	Section 4D.17 thru 4D.24: Sections and Figures for various modes of LT and RT signal
	operation.
	Section 4D.25: Signal displays for shared LT/RT lanes with no through movement.
	Section 4D.26: Yellow change intervals and red clearance intervals.
	Section 4D.27: Use of back-up power at signalized locations with RR preemption.
	Section 4D.28: Optional use of flashing mode on a schedule basis.
	Section 4D.34: Use of overhead lane control signs.
<b>4</b> E	-Pedestrian Control Features
	Section 4E.04: Use of overlaid pedestrian symbols.
	Section 4E.06: Pedestrian intervals and signal phases.
	Section 4E.06: Walking speed for calculating pedestrian clearance interval.
	Section 4E.06: Optional use of pedestrian leading interval.
	Section 4E.07: Countdown pedestrian displays.

Section 4E.08: Guidance for location of pedestrian pushbuttons for variety of conditions.

☐ Section 4E.08: Positioning of pedestrian pushbuttons and legends.

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<ul> <li>□ Section 4E.09: Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS).</li> <li>□ Section 4E.09 thru 4E.13: APS revised provisions.</li> </ul>		
4F – New Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon		
☐ Entire Chapter is new.		
4G – New Emergency Vehicle Hybrid Beacon  ☐ Entire Chapter is new.		
4K - New Chapter - Highway Traffic Signals at Toll Plazas		
☐ Entire Chapter is new.		
<u>4L − Flashing Beacons</u> □ <u>Section 4L.02:</u> Intersection control beacons using two red lenses.		

## Part 5 – Traffic Control Devices for Low-Volume Roads

<u>5A</u>	<u>- General</u> <u>Section 5A.01:</u> Residential street in a neighborhood will not be a low-volume road.
<b>5</b> F	- Traffic Control for Highway-Rail Grade Crossings
	Section 5F.04: Use of YIELD, Yield Ahead, STOP and Stop Ahead signs at passive highway-rail grade crossings.
<u>5G</u>	- Temporary Traffic Control Zones
	Section 5G.02: For low-volume roadways with speeds of 30 miles per hour or less, a minimum distance of 100 feet may be used for the advance placement distance and the distance between signs shown in the typical applications.
<u>5H</u>	- Traffic Control for School Areas
	Entire chapter is new.

## Part 6 – Temporary Traffic Control

<u>6A</u>	<u>– General</u>
	Section 6A.01: Use of ITS in work zones for operational improvements.
6C	- Temporary Traffic Control Elements
	Section 6C.04: Table 6C-1 sign spacing distances are approximate, should be adjusted for field conditions, to provide additional reaction time or in order to place a sign immediately downstream of an intersection.
	Section 6C.05: Use of more dominant devices in mobile operations.
	Section 6C.10: Traffic control can be self-regulating on low-volume roadways if road users from both directions are able to see the traffic through and beyond the worksite.
6D	- General
	Section 6D.01: If establishing or maintaining an alternate pedestrian route is not feasible, an alternate means for pedestrians, such as adding free bus service or assigning someone the responsibility to assist pedestrians with disabilities, may be used.
6E	- Flagger Control
	Section 6E.03: The bottom of the STOP/SLOW sign portion of the paddle should be a minimum of 6 feet above the pavement when mounted on a rigid staff.
	<u>Section 6E.03:</u> Use of traffic baton made of a flashlight with a red glow cone when flagging in an emergency situation at night in a non-illuminated flagger station.
	Section 6E.04 thru 6E.06: Automated Flagger Assistance Devices.
	<u>Section 6E.07:</u> Flaggers prohibited to use of hand movements alone without a paddle, flag, or AFAD to control road users.
	Section 6E.08: Flaggers should identify an escape route.
6F	- Traffic Control Zone Devices
	Section 6F.01: MUTCD crashworthiness provisions apply to all public roadways in California.
	<u>Section 6F.02:</u> The minimum sizes column shall only be used where the 85th-percentile speed or posted speed limit is less than 35 mph.
	<u>Section 6F.03:</u> Signs mounted on portable sign supports not meet the minimum 5 and 7 feet mounting heights provided should not be used for a duration of more than 3 days.
	Section 6F.12: Work Zone and Higher Fines Signs and Plaques.
	Section 6F.29: EXIT ONLY Sign (E5-3).
	Section 6F.30: NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN AHEAD Sign (W23-2).
	Section 6F.46: STEEL PLATE AHEAD Sign (W8-24).
	Section 6F.48: Reverse Curve Signs (W1-4 Series).
	Section 6F.54: Motorcycle Plaque (W8-15P).
	Section 6F.61: Use of alternating diamond mode.
	Section 6F.63 & 6F.83: Use of a series of sequential flashing warning lights to increase
	driver detection and recognition of the merging taper.
	Section 6F.65: Distinction between non-cylindrical tubular marker or channelizer (CA) and
	portable delinerators.

### <u>6I – Traffic Control Through Traffic Incident Management Areas</u>

☐ TA 105(CA): (New) Lane Shift on Road with Low Traffic Volumes.

☐ TA 104(CA): (New) Right Lane and Bike Lane Closure on Far Side of Intersection.

□ Section 6I.02 & 6I.03: Use of light sticks.

## Part 7 – Traffic Control for School Areas

<u>7B</u>	<u>– Signs</u>
	Section 7B.01: Use of Oversized column for sign sizes on roadways that have four or more
	lanes with posted speed limits of 40 mph or higher.
	Section 7B.07: FYG color background required on school warning signs.
	Section 7B.08, 7B.09, 7B.11, 7B.12 & 7B.15: Revised School Assembles A(CA) thru
	E(CA).
	Section 7B.12: In-Street Schoolchildren Crossing (Yield) sign.
	Section 7B.13: School Bus Stop Ahead Sign (S3-1).
	Section 7B.14: SCHOOL BUS TURN AHEAD Sign (S3-2).
	Section 7B.15: END SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT (S5-3) sign.
	Section 7B.15: EXTENDED 25 MPH AND/OR REDUCED SPEEDS IN SCHOOL ZONES.
	Section 7B.16: Use of Reduced School Speed Limit Ahead (S4-5, S4-5a) sign where the
	speed limit is being reduced by more than 10 mph.
<u>7C</u>	- Markings
	Section 7C.02: Warning signs should be installed for all marked school crosswalks at non-
	intersection locations.
<b>7</b> D	- Crossing Supervision

☐ Section 7D.03: Minimum qualifications of adult crossing guards.

## Part 8 - Traffic Control for Railroad and Light Rail Transit Grade Crossings

ο .		
<u>8A</u>	- General	
	Section 8A.01: Use of phrases "grade crossing" by itself or with prefix "highway-rail" or	
_	"highway-LRT,".	
	Section 8A.07: Quiet Zone Treatments at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings	
QD	– Signs and Markings	
<u>od</u>	Section 8B.03: Crossbuck sign is required at a highway-rail grade crossing and is optional at	
	highway-LRT grade crossings.	
	Section 8B.04: YIELD or STOP sign is required at all passive grade crossings. Use of STOP	
	sign is limited to unusual conditions.	
	Section 8B.04: An additional Crossbuck Assembly is required on the left-hand side of the	
	highway where restricted sight distance or unfavorable highway geometry exists or on one-	
	way multi-lane approaches.	
	Section 8B.06: Yield Ahead or Stop Ahead signs are required if YIELD or STOP sign is	
	used.	
	Section 8B.18: Emergency Notification Sign (I-13).	
	Section 8B.21: NO TRAIN HORN (W10-9P) plaque.	
	Section 8B.22: NO GATES OR LIGHTS Plaque (W10-13P). NO SIGNAL (W10-10) sign is	
	deleted.	
	Section 8B.28: A stop line is required on paved roadways at grade crossings that are	
	equipped with active control devices such as flashing-light signals, gates, or traffic control	
	signals. A stop line is recommended on paved roadway approaches to passive grade crossings	
	where a STOP sign is installed in conjunction with the Crossbuck sign. A yield line is	
	optional on paved roadway approaches to passive grade crossings where a YIELD sign is	
	installed in conjunction with the Crossbuck sign.	
	Section 8B.29: Dynamic envelope pavement markings should not be placed perpendicular to	
	the roadway at skewed grade crossings.	
<u>ور</u>	- Flashing-Light Signals, Gates and Traffic Control Signals	
<u>oc</u>		
	<u>Section 8C.03 &amp; 8C.10:</u> If flashing-light signals are in operation at a highway-LRT crossing used by pedestrians, bicyclists, and/or other non-motorized road users, an audible device	
	such as a bell shall be provided and shall be operated in conjunction with the flashing-light	
	signals.	
	Section 8C.04: Use of vertical/diagonal stripes on gates.	
	Section 8C.07: Wayside Horn Systems.	
	Section 8C.09: Information regarding type of preemption and related timing parameters shall	
	be provided to railroad company so that they can design the appropriate train detection	
	circuitry.	
	Section 8C.12: Grade Crossings Within or In Close Proximity to Circular Intersections.	
8D – Pathway Grade Crossings		
	Entire chapter is new.	

## Part 9 – Traffic Control for Bicycle Facilities

<u>9B</u>	- Signs
	Section 9B.01: Lateral offset, vertical clearance and mounting heights on shared-use paths.
	Section 9B.02: Minimum plaque sizes.
	Section 9B.06: Bicycles May Use Full Lane Sign (R4-11).
	Section 9B.09: Selective Exclusion Signs. R9-13 & R9-14 signs are new.
	Section 9B.11: R10-3 sign is deleted. R10-4, R10-24, R10-25 and R10-26 signs are new.
	Section 9B.18: Combined Bicycle/Pedestrian (W11-15) sign and TRAIL X-ING (W11-15P)
	supplemental plaque are new.
	Section 9B.20: Bicycle Guide Signs (D1-1b, D1-1c, D1-2b, D1-2c, D1-3b, D1-3c, D11-1,
	D11-1c).
	Section 9B.21: Bicycle Route (M1-8a) sign is new.
	Section 9B.22: Bicycle Route Sign Auxiliary Plaques.
	Section 9B.24: Reference Location Signs (D10-1 through D10-3) and Intermediate Reference
	Location Signs (D10-1a through D10-3a).
	Section 9B.25: Mode-Specific Guide Signs for Shared-Use Paths (D11-1a, D11-2, D11-3,
	D11-4).
	Section 9B.26: Smaller sized object markers on shared-use paths.
<u>9C</u>	<u>– Markings</u>
	Section 9C.04: A through bicycle lane shall not be positioned to the left of a left turn only
	lane.
	Section 9C.07: Shared Lane Marking.

# **Appendix A2 – Metric Conversions**

☐ Entire appendix is new.